

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1486

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, IN

SUBJ: NON-PROFESSIONAL COURIER TRAVEL

REF: STATE 98594

1. OUR AIR ATTACHE'S ASSESSMENT OF INDIAN AIRLINES PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO AIR SAFETY IS "MINIMUM SAFETY." THIS LEAVES US SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE QUESTION OF RESUMING NON-PRO COURIER SERVICE AT THIS TIME. IT WOULD SEEM THE BETTER PART OF WISDOM TO WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL THIS YEAR'S MONSOON SEASON IS PAST BEFORE TAKING A DECISION.

2. LEAVING THE AIR SAFETY ISSUE ASIDE, OUR STUDY OF CURRENT AIRLINE SCHEDULES INDICATES THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL COURIER FROM BANGKOK TO SERVICE CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COST. THIS IS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE BANGKOK PRO-COURIER WILL CONTINUE TO SERVICE COLOMBO AND PEKING. MADRAS APPARENTLY REPRESENTS AN EXTRA EXPENSE FOR THE PRO-COURIER SERVICE BUT A NON-PRO SERVICE IS PROBABLY EVEN MORE COSTLY. SOMEBODY HAS TO PAY.

3. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IS MEANT BY PARAGRAPH 3(B) AS TO "HOW POST CAN ASSIST IN ABSORBING COSTS." WE HAVE NO FUNDS TO "ASSIST IN ABSORBING" PRO-COURIER SERVICE. WE ASSUME THE BUREAU WOULD PROVIDE WHATEVER FUNDS WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR 75 NON-PRO SERVICE. SCHNEIDER

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